



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND SPORTS

Legal framework on CB EQA

EQAR Members' Dialogue
26-27 November 2015, Sofija

Ana Tecilazić- Goršić
Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Croatia



Outline

- Ministerial commitments
- Support to EHEA reforms (E+)
- Proposed legislative changes
- Future challenges



Ministerial commitments - Bucharest

*Quality assurance is essential for building trust and to reinforce the attractiveness of the EHEA's offerings, including in the **provision of cross-border education**.*

*We encourage HEIs to further develop **joint programmes and degrees** as part of a wider EHEA approach. We will examine national rules and practices relating to joint programmes and degrees as a way to dismantle obstacles to cooperation and mobility embedded in national contexts”.*

*We will allow **EQAR-registered quality assurance** agencies to perform their activities **across the EHEA**, while complying with national requirements.*



Ministerial commitments - Yerevan

*We will enable our HEIs to use a suitable **EQAR registered agency** for their external quality assurance process, respecting the national arrangements for the decision making on QA outcomes.*

European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes



Support to EHEA reforms (E+)

- ✓ ERASMUS+ Project ROCCO - Removing Obstacles to Cross-border Cooperation
- ✓ Erasmus + Programme – Key Action 3 (KA3)- Support to the implementation of EHEA reforms
- ✓ The ROCCO Project is aiming at improving conditions for development and accreditation of joint study programmes and contributing to more efficient and fruitful cross-border cooperation.
- ✓ This is a part of an overall internationalisation policy of HE in Croatia and the Bologna process.



ROCCO Project

- ✓ To identify legal and administrative obstacles that hinder development and delivery of joint programmes and joint degrees in Croatia;
- ✓ To develop recommendations on how to remove these obstacles by drafting legal provision on cross-border cooperation and the Guidelines for development and delivery of joint programmes and joint degrees;
- ✓ To look for good practice examples and models;
- ✓ To further promote the idea of internationalisation and in particular cross border cooperation and joint programmes and degrees.



Draft Act on QA in Science and HE - TNE

Transnational higher education - development, accreditation and delivery of:

- foreign study programmes in Croatia,
- study programmes accredited in Croatia abroad,
- joint study programmes with joint or multiple degree.

Alignment with the EU Service Directive.



Trans - national higher education

- ✓ An EU HEI can deliver its study programme in Croatia as long as it is accredited HEI and it has accredited respective study programme in its home country;
- ✓ It should inform the Croatian QAA prior to delivery of the programme and inform the students about the fact that it awards foreign qualifications;
- ✓ Students enrolled in foreign study programme are not considered full time students in the Republic of Croatia neither they have the same rights as Croatian full time students (except for those rights that are under the EU Treaty provisions of non discrimination);
- ✓ A non-EU HEI goes through accreditation procedure with the Croatian QAA.



Joint programmes and joint degrees

Inter-institutional agreement:

- ✓ Single review and the plan for re-accreditation;
- ✓ Financing, distribution of income, responsibilities in management and delivery of study programme, teachers' mobility;
- ✓ Procedure for the selection of students, enrolment procedures and progress through the programme;
- ✓ Tuition fees, student status and their rights and grants in accordance with national regulations;
- ✓ Plan for managing students in case of termination of joint study programmes;
- ✓ Qualification awarded, content of public documents (diploma), academic or professional title or academic degree.



Draft Act on QA in Science and HE - CBQA

- ✓ Croatian Agency for Science and Higher Education (QAA) can perform its activities outside the Croatian borders.
- ✓ The possibility of automatic recognition of degrees delivered by an institution quality assured by Croatian QAA.
- ✓ Quality assurance can be performed in Croatia by a suitable EQAR registered agency, respecting the national arrangements for the decision making on QA outcomes.
- ✓ The draft act introduces possibilities but a secondary legislation documents should define detailed rules and procedure.



CBQA – future challenges

BENEFITS:

- ✓ Increases international dimension of HE
- ✓ Increases competitiveness and attraction of Croatian HE abroad
- ✓ Challenges the monopolistic idea of territorial QA

FEARS:

- ✓ Are all EQAR registered agencies suitable?
- ✓ To what extent people outside HE see the benefits of CBQA?
- ✓ Would CB quality assurance services become market oriented?



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND SPORTS

ana.tecilazicgorsic@mzos.hr